DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 081 695 SO 006 170

TITLE	Econ Notes. Volume XI, Number 3.
INSTITUTION	Minnesota State Council on Economic Education, Minneapolis.
PUB DATE	Apr 73
NOTE	4p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Minnesota State Council on Economic Education, University of Minnesota, 1169 Business Administration Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455 (Free)
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS	Conferences; *Economic Education; *Economics; Educational Planning; *Newsletters; State Programs
IDENTIFIERS	*Minnesota

ABSTRACT

This newsletter cites current activities, new staff assignments, and grants awarded in the field of economics. Announcement is made of summer workshops held on state campuses during the summer of 1973 and of summer institutes supported by the National Science Foundation. Included are brief reports on previous state conferences and notes on the availability of results of related research studies and materials. (SHM)

INNESOTA STATE COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

ECON NOTES

IL, 1973 VOLUME XI NUMBER 3 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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WILLIAM BECKER NAMED TO SUCCEED DARRELL LEWIS AS UNIVERSITY CENTER DIRECTOR

Dr. William E. Becker, Jr., 28, has been named to succeed Dr. Darrell R. Lewis as director of the Center for Economic Education at the University of Minnesota, effective May 1.

Dr. Lewis, who was recently appointed to the position of Associate Dean of the College of Education at the University, will retain until October his responsibilities as Executive Director of the Minnesota State Council on Economic Education. It is anticipated that Dr. Becker will be formally elected to the executive directorship at the Council's annual meeting in October.

A midwesterner, Becker is a graduate of the College of St. Thomas and received his master's degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1970. He earned his Ph.D. in economics at the University of Pittsburgh in 1973.

Dr. Becker has taught junior and senior high school in Wisconsin, as well as at the Universities of Wisconsin and Pittsburgh.

Dr. William Becker
new University Center director

Dr. Darrell Lewis
named associate dean

Economic Education Workshops Will Be Offered On Five State Campuses During Summer '73

Minnesota teachers will be able to develop and sharpen their skills at economic education workshops on five state campuses this coming summer. Here's the roundup:

Bemidji State College–A workshop in the case method of teaching economics will be offered on this campus to high school teachers. The course, Innovative Methods in Teaching Elementary Economics, will run June 11-15 under the direction of Dr. John R. Griffith of the economics department. Two quarter-hours of credit are offered.

Mankato State College–The Mankato Center for Economic Education will conduct a two-week (June 11-22) workshop in economics curriculum development for teachers of grades K-6. Basic objective is to develop an economics supplement to an existing social studies curriculum. The workshop will meet daily 12:30-3:30 in air-conditioned Old Main. The course, Economics 6813, will be taught by Center Director Dr. Paul Thompson and carries three hours of graduate credit in economics. Pre-requisite is recent completion of an economics course or concurrent registration for independent study in economics. The course is co-sponsored by the Joint Council and a limited number of tuition scholarships will be granted by the Minnesota Council.

St. Thomas College–An economic education workshop for high school studies teachers is slated for this campus June 18-July 20. It will focus on "Urban Studies and Community

(SUMMER WORKSHOPS, Continued Page 4)

University Center Awarded $30,000 Exxon Foundation Grant For Joint Venture Junior College Program

The Center for Economic Education at the University of Minnesota has been awarded a three-year, $30,000 grant by the Exxon Foundation for statewide economic education projects involving teachers of economics at the state's junior colleges.

Beginning next September under the direction of Dr. William Becker, the project will have a three-fold purpose:

(1) to generate a cooperative, inter-institutional program of instruction and curriculum development between the University and the Minnesota junior colleges.

(2) to develop prototype syllabus and materials for teaching economics in the junior colleges.

(3) to systematically evaluate the results of these efforts.

These objects will be achieved through institutes, seminars, task forces and advisory committees involving all colleges. During the three-year program, it is anticipated that all faculty members in the two-year community colleges will be involved in this project.

The program will be administered through the Joint Council on Economic Education and implemented by the University of Minnesota Center and the University Center at Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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National Science Foundation Supports Six Summer Institutes

The National Science Foundation this summer will support six institutes in economics for secondary teachers. Each institute typically awards a stipend and pays travel expenses for participating teachers. For further information and a brochure, write the persons listed:

CALIFORNIA: (June 25-August 3) Dr. Turley Mings, Center for Economic Education, California State University, San Jose, California, 95114.

ILLINOIS: (June 18-August 10) Prof. Donald W. Paden, Dept. of Economics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 61801.

MASSACHUSETTS: (June 25-August 3) Focuses on political economy. Dr. Bradbury Seasholes, Lincoln Filene Center, Tufts University, Medford, Mass. 02155.

OKLAHOMA: (June 5-July 28) Dr. H. P. Kopecky, College of Business Administration, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla. 74074.

PENNSYLVANIA: (June 26-August 4) Dr. Robert L. Hammon, Department of Economics, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104.

WASHINGTON: (June 18-July 27) Dr. Edward L. Hamblin, Center for Economic Education, Eastern Washington State College, Cheney, Wash. 99004.

Guide Assists In Selection Of College Texts In Economics

Junior college and four-year college and university teachers of the introductory economics course have the awesome task of selecting a text from among the 41 which have been published or revised in the past three years.

Now available to assist teachers in text selection is the newly published (December 1972) **Guide to the Selection of College Introductory Economics Textbooks** by Lawrence E. Leamer, professor of economics at the State University of New York, Binghamton.

Heart of the guide is a one-page profile of objective characteristics of each of the 41 introductory texts: content and organization, aims and objectives, content analysis and profile, teaching factors . . .

Another section of the guide draws on the text profiles to compare the texts in terms of 33 different objective criteria. Copies are available from Economic Growth Institute, State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901.

Results Now Available From Study Of Graduate Student Instructors

Results of a pilot study examining a new training system developed at the University of Minnesota for graduate student instructors of introductory economics are now available from the University Center.

These preliminary results indicate that the teacher training project was significantly positive according to every measurement: actual classroom performance of students taking the principles course, student evaluations, and videotaped observations.

The study consisted of an integrated series of student evaluations, video-taped observations and instructional seminars for training and assisting the graduate students who provide instruction for some 44 sections of the introductory course in economics at the University.

Five Minnesota Teachers Awarded Sears Fellowships for Summer Institute at St. Cloud

Five elementary teachers from Minnesota have received Sears Roebuck Fellowship awards totaling $1,650. They will participate in an economic education institute offered during the first summer session at St. Cloud State College.

The St. Cloud institute, offered by the Center for Economic Education, is part of a nationwide program coordinated by the Joint Council and funded by the Sears Foundation.

Selected to participate in the Minnesota program are Ms. Rita Kainz of Rice, John Tritabaugh of Annandale, L. B. Kucera of Northfield, Mrs. Jane Reinert of Sauk Rapids and Ralph Johnson of Hutchinson.

Each will receive a $300 stipend upon satisfactory completion of the workshop, and an additional $50 contingent on satisfactory application of workshop experience during the school year.

They will also receive a library of selected study and teaching materials and special consultant services.

The national program will allow 125 elementary teachers to participate in similar workshops in 25 states.

St. Cloud Center Gets $6,500 Grant

The St. Cloud Center for Economic Education has received a $6,500 grant from the College Bookstore Fund for tuition scholarships in economic education.

The Bookstore Fund grant is contingent on the Center's generating other matching funds for tuition scholarships from other institutions and the Minnesota Council is cooperating in this effort through its tuition scholarship program.

These resources will be used to support ongoing inservice instructional programs in cooperation with the MSCEE, according to Center Director Andrew Nappi. He noted that this is the second matching scholarship grant awarded by the Bookstore Fund to the Center. Scholarships will be available June 1.

SOCIAL SCIENCE FOR THE FUTURE IS THEME OF MANKATO CONFERENCE

An all-day social studies conference for Minnesota teachers was held March 31 at Mankato State College under the direction of Dr. Paul Thompson.

Sessions focused on answers to the questions: What are the proposed new social science certification requirements in Minnesota? How can they be implemented—kindergarten to college?

The conference was sponsored by the Minnesota State Department of Education, the Minnesota State Council on Economic Education and the college's social science departments.

Two Grants Awarded To St. Thomas

The Economic Education Center at St. Thomas has received two grants (under Titles VI and I of the Higher Education Act of 1965) to purchase audio-visual materials.

According to Center Director Mohamed Selim, these materials include slide-cassette presentations, films, filmstrip-cassette presentations, transparencies and games and simulations in the teaching of economics.

These materials are available for use by teachers of economics at all levels—grades K-12, college instruction and adult education. For further information, call Professor Selim (647-5655).

St. Paul Foundation Grants $8,500 To Minnesota Council For Teacher Training In Economics Of Poverty And Urban Change In St. Paul

The Minnesota Council has received a grant of $8,500 to support a two-year inservice teacher training program in St. Paul, focusing on the economics of poverty and urban change.

The grant, given by the Laura & Anna E. R. Furness Fund of the St. Paul Foundation, supports a study involving 60 St. Paul teachers through January of 1975.

Director Darrell R. Lewis said the program this year is directed primarily to 30 ninth grade social studies teachers in eight St. Paul junior high schools. Second-year emphasis will be directed to 30 12th grade social studies teachers.

Among the objectives of the program are to train these teachers to be "creatively self-sufficient" with the discipline of economics (less dependent on a text), to be more effective in the transfer and translation dimension of teaching economics, and to equip themselves with materials, bibliographies and new ideas for use in revising their curricula – particularly for teaching about economics, poverty and urban problems.

The program is run in cooperation with the Center for Economic Education at the University. St. Paul coordinators for the study will be Geraldine Kozberg, supervisor of Humanities (social studies and language arts) and three social studies resource teachers – David Robb, Jerome Cromer and Benjamin Franczok. Other staff includes Professor Tor Dahl, economist from the University.

Bibliography of Children's Literature In Economics Is Now Available

Since its designation last fall as the national depository for children's stories in economic education, the St. Cloud Center has purchased and reviewed more than 300 stories at the K-6 level relating to economics.

All were annotated and included in a bibliography published by the Joint Council last month. Project directors and authors are Dr. Andrew Nappi, Dr. Allen Moran and Professor Mary Jo Berdan.

Entitled "Learning Economics Through Children's Stories," the bibliography was prepared primarily to assist elementary teachers with their efforts to teach basic economic concepts to students. It represents a significant revision of an earlier (1969) bibliography published and distributed by the JCEE. For further information, please contact Dr. Nappi or call 255-2157.

Minnesota Conference On Career And Economic Education Conducted April 14 At St. Cloud College

Featuring two nationally prominent economic educators, one of seven state-wide conferences dealing with the national World of Work Economic Education project was conducted at St. Cloud State College on April 14.

Major addresses were presented by S. Stowell Symmes, curriculum director for the Joint Council, and Phillip Powell, co-author of "Manpower and Economic Education: Opportunities in American Life" curriculum materials. Professor Powell is also on the staff of the World of Work project.

Some 175 Minnesotans were involved in the program. They

(ST. CLOUD CONFERENCE, Continued Page 4)

St. Cloud Begins Second Half Of Mr. Banker Game Project

Now that some 30 secondary teachers have used a locally-developed simulation in their classrooms for several months, it's time for the second half–evaluation, revision and adaptation of the game, Mr. Banker, for widescale classroom use.

The game was developed by James Hammill, education director for the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank. Its major objective is to demonstrate the deposit-creation function of commercial banks and the need for a central monetary authority, the Federal Reserve System, to change the rate of growth of money supply and the cost and availability of credit.

The 30 teachers were first instructed in standard money and banking concepts dealt with in the game; they subsequently used it in their classrooms to determine its impact on students' understanding of economic concepts. Results from pre- and post-testing of students have now been compiled and analyzed. These results are now being used by the project staff to revise and adapt the game and to write the game director's manual.

Now Available: Results of USOE Consumer Economics Research Study

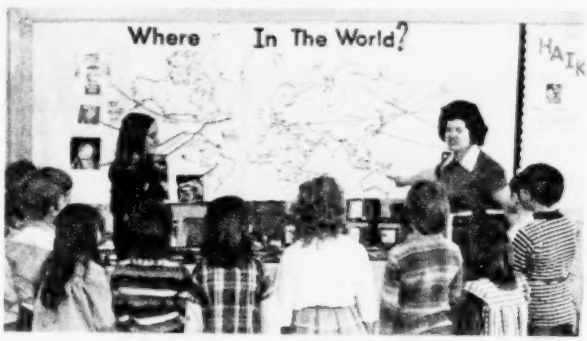
The results of a USOE-funded research project to create and validate curriculum materials in consumer economics for high school students are now available.

The 18-month study was conducted by Professor Andrew Nappi of St. Cloud State College, with assistance from Professor Clare Wesley. Its purpose was to determine the short-term impact of inquiry-oriented teaching materials on high school students' understanding of consumer economic concepts and practices.

Additionally, the study sought to determine if a comparative advantage exists in offering consumer economic courses at the pre-service or in-service levels of instruction.

The major conclusions:

- the inquiry-oriented materials in question affected students' understanding positively
- such materials were more effective in communicating consumer education content to business education and home economics students than to social studies students
- the less traditional treatment of consumer education material is less effective than inquiry mode of instruction.



Teachers Shirley Johnson, left, and Dottie Lawson and second grade students from Winnebago, Minnesota, participated in a demonstration teaching unit at Mankato State College's social studies conference on March 31. This particular demonstration emphasized the multi-disciplinary aspect of teaching young people the causes of one major social problem–unemployment.

(SUMMER WORKSHOPS, Continued)

Development," according to Professor Mohamed Selim, chairman of the economics department and director of the Center for Economic Education. This program offers six hours of graduate credit; it is designed for teachers who have had some course work in economics and who currently have responsibility for teaching and implementing economics in their teaching programs.

A limited number of MSCEE partial-tuition scholarships are available to qualified teachers. Please contact Professor Selim (647-5655) for further information.

St. Olaf College—The National Science Foundation has again awarded a grant to St. Olaf to support a five-week summer institute in economics for high school students, beginning June 18. This is the seventh consecutive such program at the college. Dr. E. David Emery of the St. Olaf economics faculty will direct the institute, which is expected to draw 35 students from throughout the nation; Drs. Frank Gery and Thomas Enger will assist in the instruction. Curriculum will include study in economic theory combined with analysis and research in current economic problems.

St. Cloud College—Three separate courses in economic education will be offered here during the first and second summer sessions, according to Professor Andrew T. Nappi, St. Cloud Center Director.

(1) A six-credit course will be offered during the first summer session to inservice elementary teachers in Sartell schools participating in the PARCEL program sponsored by the Minnesota Council. This course will meet daily from 9-2:30 p.m. and represents the first phase of a curriculum revision and adaptation project to include economics in the K-6 social studies program of cooperating schools. Some 30 teachers are participating in the course. The second phase of the year-long project will be a coordinated program of follow-up meetings during the 1973-74 school year. The course is intended to give teachers an understanding of the fundamental ideas of economics and new insights into the teaching of social studies. Instructors are Dr. Owen Hagen, Professor Allen Larsen and Dr. Nappi. The project with the Sartell schools is the fourth PARCEL program in which the St. Cloud Center has cooperated with the MSCEE.

(2) During the second session, Dr. Nappi will teach a four-credit course, Economics 610, Independent Study in Economic Education. It is specifically designed for elementary and secondary teachers interested in increasing their subject-matter backgrounds and competence in economics and the curriculum. The main objective of the course is to allow teachers to pursue in-depth study on an independent and individualized basis. A limited number of tuition scholarships are available from the St. Cloud Center.

(3) A second program offered during the first summer session, supported by Sears Roebuck fellowship awards, is explained elsewhere in this issue.

St. Thomas Center Completes Study On Effectiveness Of Audio-Tutorial Learning In Economics

The results of an audio-tutorial learning study have encouraged many instructors of economics at St. Thomas College to implement that approach in their teaching, according to Professor Mohamed Selim, director of the Center for Economic Education at the college.

The pilot study was partially supported by a research grant from the Minnesota Council and was directed by Professor Selim. Using the significant variables from the students' demographic data sheets, the study indicated a greater gain in both the cognitive and affective domains through the use of the audio-tutorial method of learning.

(ST. CLOUD CONFERENCE, Continued)

included secondary social studies and business education teachers, curriculum directors, guidance counselors, vocational education personnel and career education consultants.

Goals of the conference included an exploration of the relationship of economic education to career education.

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